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Program or Plan of Government

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I. Introduction

Notwithstanding the very elemental development of public life in El Salvador, there has developed a certain Salvadoran civic consciousness, and we find ourselves at the historic moment when it is necessary to carry on the Democratic development of our country from the basis set down by our fathers in the past century toward a progressive fundamental Democracy appropriate to the mid 20th Century.

Our ancestors worked very hard. They laid the foundations and tried to develop a consciousness with regard to duties and rights. Much has been accomplished. The Salvadoran people may look to the future with the confidence of a people who know what they want and where they are going.

This is a plan which requires the collaboration of all that is Salvadoran and of all Salvadorans. It is one more step toward the greatness of our people, one more step toward the Federation of the countries of Central America.

II. National Policy

1. Unification

We believe that a country can only develop when all social classes cooperate in that development, when all forces are positively oriented in a constructive sense toward a sole end, which is the well being of all citizens, which is in the last analysis the well being of the individual. For this reason and since our object is to attain the maximum benefit in the minimum of time our efforts are directed to developing public opinion toward a unity of all spiritual and material forces.

2. Democratic Action

Our postulates consisting of the classic freedoms of authentic democracy shall be put into practice and shall be guaranteed by the efforts of each citizen who realizes that every right generates a duty.

3. Municipal Freedom

The basis of all Democratic organization has always been and continues to be the municipality. This is the main institution which is in direct contact with the family and with the citizens. To enable and to give liberty to the municipality is to make Democracy effective in the country.

4. Moralization.

a. Honesty in the Public Administration.

III. International Policy

1. The development in all its purity and intensity of the Central American unionist ideal.
2. Application of the Pan American Doctrine.
3. Intensification of International, Cultural, Industrial, and Commercial relations.
4. Reorganization and rehabilitation of the diplomatic and consular service.

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GENERAL DIRECTIVE FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF A
POLITICAL PARTY

Name of the Party: Partido Democratico Progresista (PDP)

Colors: Blue and White

Doctrine: The members of the PDP firmly believe that a Progressive Democratic Regime consists of: .

1. A government of, by, and for the people.
2. A guarantee of the natural and artificial rights of the individual based on the following postulates:

All men are born equal and have equal possibilities and equal rights before the law;

Freedom of expression;

Freedom of education;

Freedom of association;

Freedom from fear;

Freedom from ignorance;

Freedom of economy.

3. The suppression of the special privileges created by the erroneous exercise of democracy in Latin American countries.

4. Economic planning by the state in the interest of individual and collective economic well-being.

5. The intelligent action of the state in favor of the citizen and of the citizen in favor of the state.

All action planned and developed by the PDP as a political party or by any of its members as elements of a government would be based on the following principles:

- (1) The fight for the common good concerns man. The triumph of this cause concerns the Almighty.
- (2) To love one's father and mother is to love the Patria.
- (3) Salvadoran political policy is an integral part of morality.
- (4) To accept the political, social, and economic legacy of one's fathers and to maintain it and improve it is to project one's self into the future on a firm and sure basis.
- (5) Those who strike against patriotism are enemies of themselves and of their country.
- (6) The Constitution is not a house of dreams but a redoubt for the defense of the rights of men.
- (7) The society in which the rights of men are not assured has no Constitution.

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IV. Justice

1. A better system for the justice and legal protection of the poor.
2. Reform of the penal system toward humanization and racial discipline.
3. Creation of juvenile courts.

V. Economy

We accept the principle of private property as fundamental to any economic reorganization in El Salvador. In a plan which pursues the universal prosperity of all Salvadorans certain rectifications are necessary to permit the development of the common interests but without affecting the Democratic rights which belong to the property owner. We believe also that any disposition of land to persons who do not understand how to use it is destined to failure.

The state will give all kinds of guarantees to businessmen who desire to collaborate in the betterment of the country by creating new sources of work and wealth. The economic development of the country is the field for private initiative. The state will insure investments and encourage all undertakings necessary to the national economy activating them on its own account when private initiative fails to do so.

Every stimulus and aid shall be given to institutions for savings, insurance, and capitalization.

International commerce shall be as free as is compatible with the development of national industry, but the state will give protection to national industries as long as these do not transform themselves into monopolies to raise prices.

(The remainder of the program consists mostly of lists of points concerning the ways in which agriculture, stockraising, water system, mining, fishing, and various other activities may be developed. The program also calls for a reformed tax system and for a tax on real property. Under Education the most important point is compulsory schooling for all children involving a tremendous expansion of all educational facilities. Under Social Aspects the program would create a system of social insurance for industrial and farm workers, a labor code, and a minimum salary. The program would also expand the sanitary services and engage in campaigns against various diseases. The outline of the program concludes by stating that plans for Communications and for the Armed Forces have not been worked out.)

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